



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 17, 2005**

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**FORMER AFGHAN MISSION EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY  
IN FEDERAL COURT TO TAX FRAUD AND BANK FRAUD CHARGES**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, MARK MERSHON, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and MICHAEL J. THOMAS, the Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, New York, announced the guilty plea entered today by NOORULLAH ZADRAN, 53, of Huntington, New York, to one count of tax fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. From about 1998, up to about 2001, ZADRAN worked at the diplomatic mission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (the "Afghan Mission"), located in Flushing, New York.

A grand jury in Manhattan returned a superseding Indictment against ZADRAN on February 14, 2005, charging him with four counts of tax fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. According to the Indictment, ZADRAN failed to report on his income tax returns for Tax Years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 all of the salary and other income that he received in the

course of his employment with the Afghan Mission. The Indictment further charged that between February 2001 and July 2001, ZADRAN conspired with others to obtain a loan of approximately \$240,000 by submitting fraudulent information to a financial institution. Specifically, with respect to the bank fraud conspiracy, the Indictment charged ZADRAN with recruiting a co-conspirator in March 2001 to falsely verify to a representative of a mortgage brokerage company that ZADRAN's wife worked in a data processing job at the Afghan Mission.

Today, in Manhattan federal court, ZADRAN pled guilty to Counts Three (Tax Fraud covering Tax Year 2000) and Five (Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud) of the Superseding Indictment before United States Magistrate Judge MICHAEL H. DOLINGER. In his plea allocution, ZADRAN acknowledged that he knowingly underreported his income on his tax return for Tax Year 2000 and that he caused false information about his wife's employment status to be submitted to a financial institution in March 2001 in an effort to obtain a lower interest rate on a loan.

Sentencing is scheduled for September 20, 2005, at 4:30 p.m. before United States District Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service in conducting the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney STEPHEN A. MILLER is in charge of the prosecution.